

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 4, 6, and 15 to read, as follows.

1. **(Canceled)**

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Canceled)**

4. **(Currently Amended)** A developing apparatus comprising:

a developer bearing member; and

a developer carrying screw placed in parallel with said developer bearing member,

wherein said developer carrying screw includes a rotary shaft and a spiral blade,

and said spiral blade is wound about said rotary shaft in a spiral form and has a carrying surface for carrying developer, and

wherein when viewing said developer carrying screw in cross section along ~~cross-section~~ in a longitudinal direction of said developer carrying screw, an inclination angle with respect to a rotation centerline of said rotary shaft at said carrying surface is smaller than an inclination angle with respect to the rotation centerline at an opposite side of said carrying surface.

5. **(Original)** The developing apparatus according to claim 4,  
wherein said developer carrying screw is placed adjacently to said developer  
bearing member.

6. **(Currently Amended)** A developing apparatus comprising:  
a developer bearing member; and  
a developer carrying screw placed in parallel with said developer bearing member,  
wherein said developer carrying screw includes a rotary shaft and a spiral blade,  
and said spiral blade is wound about said rotary shaft in a spiral form and has a carrying  
surface for carrying a developer, and  
wherein when viewing said developer carrying screw in cross section along cross-  
~~section~~ in a longitudinal direction of said developer carrying screw, said carrying surface  
includes surface portions having a plurality of different inclination angles with respect to a  
rotation center line of said rotary shaft.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The developing apparatus according to claim 6,  
wherein said surface portions include a portion of said carrying surface near to said  
rotary shaft and a portion of said carrying surface farther from said rotary shaft, and  
wherein said portion of said carrying surface near to said rotary shaft has a smaller  
angle than said portion of said carrying surface farther from said rotary shaft.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The developing apparatus according to claim 6,  
wherein when a distance from a reference surface of said rotary shaft to a tip end of  
said blade is  $H1$ , and a distance from the reference surface to a point P at which the surface  
portions intersect each other is  $H2$ ,

$$H2 < H1 \times \frac{1}{2} \text{ is satisfied.}$$

9. **(Previously Presented)** The developing apparatus according to claim 8,  
wherein  $H1 \times \frac{1}{3} < H2 < H1 \times \frac{1}{2}$  is satisfied.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The developing apparatus according to claim 7, <sup>[[9,]]</sup>  
wherein an inclination angle of said portion of said carrying surface near to said  
rotary shaft is equal to or more than 3 degrees and equal to or less than 50 degrees.

11. **(Original)** The developing apparatus according to claim 6,  
wherein said developer carrying screw is placed adjacently to said developer  
bearing member.

12. **(Canceled)**

13. **(Canceled)**

14. **(Canceled)**

15. **(Currently Amended)** A developing apparatus comprising:

a developer bearing member; and

a developer carrying screw placed in parallel with said developer bearing member,

wherein said developer carrying screw includes a rotary shaft and a plurality of spiral blades, and each of said plurality of blades is wound about said rotary shaft in a spiral form and has a carrying surface for carrying a developer, and

wherein when viewing ~~each of said plurality of developer carrying screw screws~~ in cross section along cross-section in a longitudinal direction of said ~~each of said plurality of developer carrying screw, screws~~, an inclination angle of a carrying surface of one of said plurality of blades with respect to a rotation centerline of said rotary shaft is different from an [[the]] inclination angle ~~angles~~ of a [[the]] carrying surface ~~surfaces~~ of the other of said plurality of blades.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The developing apparatus according to claim 15,

wherein each of said plurality of said developer carrying screws includes a first blade with an inclination angle of a carrying surface having a first value, and a second blade with an inclination angle of a carrying surface having a second value smaller than the first value, and said second blade is adjacent to said first blade, at an upstream side in a developer carrying direction.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The developing apparatus according to claim 16,  
wherein when a distance from a reference surface of said rotary shaft to a tip end of  
said first blade is H1, and a distance from the reference surface to a tip end of said second  
blade is H2,

$$H2 < H1 \times \frac{1}{2} \text{ is satisfied.}$$

18. **(Previously Presented)** The developing apparatus according to claim 17,  
wherein an inclination angle of said first blade is larger than 60 degrees, and an  
inclination angle of said second blade is larger than 5 degrees and smaller than 40 degrees.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The developing apparatus according to claim 16,  
wherein a surface in a space between said second blade and said first blade at an  
upstream side of said second blade in a developer carrying direction is inclined with  
respect to the developer carrying direction.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The developing apparatus according to claim 19,  
wherein when a distance from a reference surface of said rotary shaft to a tip end of  
said first blade is H1, and a distance from the reference surface to a point P at which the  
carrying surface of said first blade and the surface in the space are intersecting each other is  
H3,

$$H3 < H1 \times \frac{1}{2} \text{ is satisfied.}$$

21. **(Original)** The developing apparatus according to claim 20,  
wherein an inclination angle of the surface in the space is larger than 5 degrees and  
smaller than 40 degrees.

22. **(Original)** The developing apparatus according to claim 15,  
wherein said developer carrying screw is placed adjacently to said developer  
bearing member.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The developing apparatus according to claim 4,  
wherein the inclination angle of the carrying surface is equal to or more than 50  
degrees and equal to or less than 60 degrees.

24. **(Previously Presented)** The developing apparatus according to claim 6,  
wherein the carrying surface is a curved surface.